

**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL  
DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT**



**APRIL 30, 2011  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS  
JAMES R. KNOPKE, PDC  
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
April 30, 2011  
Lawrence, Kansas**

1. As required by Chapter II, Article III, Section 1 of the Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and by Article VI, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, the Fifteenth Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, was held on April 30, 2011, at the American Legion Post 14 Bingo Hall, Lawrence, Kansas.
2. The Encampment was called to order at 10:25 AM by Department Commander James R. Knopke. At that time, the Past Department Commanders in attendance were announced and filed into the room. A vacant chair remained in memory of PDC Dean K. Speaks and PDC Kenneth D. Strader.
3. The opening ceremony was conducted per the Rituals and Ceremonies of the Order.
4. The roll call of officers was conducted with the following officers present or absent, as indicated:  
  
 Department Commander James R. Knopke, PDC, Camp 5, present.  
 Senior Vice Department Commander Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4, present  
 Junior Vice Department Commander and Graves Registration Officer Robert L. Wandel, PCC, Camp 4, present  
 Secretary/Treasurer and Counselor Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16, present.  
 Council Member Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1, present.  
 Council Member and Historian Blair D. Tarr, Camp 16, present.  
 Council Member Randal L. Durbin, PDC, Camp 16, absent excused.  
 Patriotic Instructor S. Todd Meek, PCC, Camp 1, absent. Position filled by William E. Fischer, Jr., Camp 5.  
 Chaplain Mark A. Britton, PCC, Camp 1, present.  
 Civil War Memorials Officer Douglas E. McGovern, PCC, Camp 1, present.  
 Eagle Scout Coordinator Brian R. Van Schmus, Camp 4, absent excused.
5. The opening of the Encampment concluded with Chaplain's prayer, followed by the Encampment attendees singing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."
6. The Encampment received Commander-in-Chief D. Brad Schall. Department of California and Pacific. CinC Schall presented greetings to the Encampment [Page A-1].
7. Commander Knopke informed the Encampment of "housekeeping rules" to be used during the meeting.
8. At this time, the PDC Alan Russ presented the Credentials Committee report of those present at the Encampment, as follows:

Encampment Status	CAMPS				TOTAL
	No. 1	No. 4	No. 5	No. 16	
Department Commander	0	0	1	0	1
Past Department Commander	1	1	1	1	4
Camp Commander	1	1	0	1	3
Past Camp Commander	3	1	0	1	5
Department Elected Officer	0	0	0	1	1
Delegate	2	2	2	2	8
Alternate Delegate	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>VOTING STRENGTH</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>

9. Commander Knopke informed the Encampment that there were requests for reinstatement of voting status as Past Camp Commander. Because this directly affected the voting status of these brothers, Commander Knopke directed that the requests be considered at that time.

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- a. Secretary Russ summarized the first request for reinstatement of PCC status concerning Arnold W. Schofield, Camp 5, previously of Mine Creek Camp 6, and noted that Mr. Schofield had failed to renew his membership with the camp.
  - i. Brother Russ requested the request be declared to be out of order due to loss of SUVCW membership.
  - ii. Commander Knopke ruled the request out of order.
- b. Secretary Russ summarized the second request for reinstatement of PCC status concerning William E. Fischer, Jr., Camp 5, previously of McKinley Camp 21, Department of Ohio.
  - i. The request was in good and proper order and was moved by Secretary Russ for approval by the Encampment.
  - ii. Motion was seconded, and motion carried.

10. Commander Knopke directed Secretary Russ to adjust the credentials report accordingly. The credentials report was changed to read, as follows (changes shown in [brackets]):

CAMPS					
Encampment Status	No. 1	No. 4	No. 5	No. 16	TOTAL
Department Commander	0	0	1	0	1
Past Department Commander	1	1	1	1	4
Camp Commander	1	1	0	1	3
Past Camp Commander	3	1	[1]	1	[6]
Department Elected Officer	0	0	0	1	1
Delegate	2	2	[1]	2	[7]
Alternate Delegate	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>VOTING STRENGTH</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>

11. Commander Knopke appointed PDC Alan L. Russ as Chairman of the Encampment Bylaws Committee, with PDC James M. Converse and PCC Robert L. Wandel as committee members.

12. Commander Knopke appointed PDC Thomas E. Schmidt as Chairman of the encampment Resolutions Officers' Report Committee, with PDC Roy A. Lafferty and PDC Randal L. Durbin as committee members. PDC Durbin was not yet in attendance, but was expected to arrive later.

13. The following Department Officer reports were presented by the officer and accepted by the Encampment as written:

- Commander James R. Knopke, PDC – Commander's Report [Page A-2]
- Roy A. Lafferty, PDC – Senior Vice Department Commander Report and "Facebook" Report [Page A-2]
- Robert L. Wandel – Junior Vice Department Commander and Graves Registration Officer Report [Page A-2]
- Alan L. Russ, PDC – Secretary and Treasurer Report [Page A-3]
- S. Todd Meek, PCC – Patriotic Instructor Report (presented by PCC William E. Fischer, Jr. [Page A-5])
- Douglas E. McGovern, PCC – Civil War Memorials Officer Report [Page A-6]
- Blair D. Tarr – Historian Reports [Page A-5]
- Brian R. Van Schmus, PCC – Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator Report (presented by PCC Robert L. Wandel [Page A-6])
- Mark A. Britton, PCC – Chaplain Report and Necrology Report [Page A-7]

14. At this time, CinC Brad Schall presented the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, with the Gold Lincoln Fellow award certificate and streamer for its donation of \$1,000.00 to the SUVCW Foundation in memory of the late Dean K. Speaks, PDC.

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15. At 12 Noon, Commander Knopke directed the Chaplain to close the Bible. Commander Knopke then declared a recess for lunch. The Encampment was reconvened at 1:15 PM. At that time, the Encampment was notified by Commander Knopke that PDC Durbin was ill and would not be joining the encampment. Commander Knopke then appointed PDC Converse to fill the vacant position on the Resolutions committee.

16. The following camp reports were presented and accepted by the Encampment as written.

Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 – Presented by Camp Commander Richard T. Bennett [Page B-1]

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 – Presented by Camp Commander Michael J. Hadl, PCC [Page B-1]

Franklin Camp 5 – Presented by David Tollefson, on behalf of Camp Commander Lane D. Smith, PCC [Page B-2]

Old Abe Camp 16 – Presented by Camp Commander Kent Melcher [Page B-2]

17. Secretary Russ reported the following correspondence had been received by the Department Secretary since the last Encampment..

- a. Letter from Kansas Historical Society thanking the Department of Kansas for its gift to the museum of a 2010 National Encampment medal, 2010 National Encampment John Brown Commemorative Medal, and a 2010 National Encampment ribbon. In addition to these items, the Department also provided the Kansas State Historical Society with the encampment book and the various printed programs.
  - i. Commander Knopke ruled no further action was required.
- b. Request for Resolution of Support from Bro. Robert Heath, of the Canadian Union Veterans Recognition Monument Committee.
  - i. Commander Knopke referred this to the Encampment Resolutions Committee.
- c. Statement of intent by Ken L. Freshley, Department of Ohio, to run for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.
  - i. Commander Knopke ruled no further action was required.
- d. Statement of intent by Donald L. Martin, Department of Ohio, to run for National Council of Administration. This is dependent upon Brother Freshley vacating his seat on the National Council of Administration.
  - i. Commander Knopke ruled no further action was required.
- e. Statement of no intent by Alan L. Russ, Department of Kansas, that he is not running for reelection to the National Council of Administration nor for election to any other National office.
  - i. Commander Knopke ruled no further action was required.

18. There being no unfinished business, Commander Knopke called for committee reports to be presented.

19. The following committee reports were presented and accepted by the Encampment as written:

- a. Report on 2010 National Encampment – Roy A. Lafferty, PDC [Page C-1]
- b. Report on 2011 Central Region Association Conference – Alan L. Russ, PDC [Page C-1]
  - i. Commander Knopke referred the recommendation contained in the report to the Encampment Resolutions Committee
- c. 2010 National Encampment Committee Report – James R. Knopke, PDC [Page C-2]

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- d. Mine Creek Battlefield Committee Report – Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC [Page C-2]
- e. PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, Department Council member, presented a report as to the satisfactory state of the funds of the Department. [Page C-2]
- f. Bylaws Committee Report – Alan L. Russ, PDC [Page C-2]
  - i. PDC Russ reported there were no recommendations for changes to the Department Bylaws, and no further action was required.

20. Commander Knopke declared that the Nominating Committee report was to be held until the start of the nomination process.

21. At 1:50 PM, Commander Knopke declared a recess after having the Chaplain close the Bible. The business meeting resumed at 2 PM.

22. Commander Knopke noted that no proposed amendments had been referred to the Encampment Bylaws Committee.

23. The Encampment Resolutions Committee presented its recommendations on the two recommendations given to them.

- a. **RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:** From the report on the 2011 Central Region Association Conference by PDC Alan Russ, “It is my recommendation to this body that the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, notify the Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (CRA) that the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, officially withdraws from membership to the CRA.”
  - i. The Encampment Resolutions Committee concurred with the recommendation. The Encampment body accepted the recommendation.
  - ii. Commander Knopke directed the Department Secretary to send a letter to the Central Region Association president and secretary advising them the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, officially withdraws from the Central Region Association.
- b. **RECOMMENDATION NO. 2:** From official correspondence received by the Department Secretary, a request on behalf of the Canadian Union Veterans Monument Committee for a resolution of support for such monument, “It is recommended the Department of Kansas issue a resolution of support for a Canadian Union Veterans Monument.”
  - i. The Encampment Resolutions Committee concurred with the recommendation. The Encampment body accepted the recommendation.
  - ii. Commander Knopke directed the Department Secretary to prepare a resolution of support for the Canadian Union Veterans Monument to be sent to the chairman of that committee.

24. Commander Knopke requested to know who planned to attend the 2011 National Encampment. The following brothers, either previously or at this time, stated they planned to attend:

- a. Commander Knopke, Camp 5(as PDC)
- b. PDC Roy A. Lafferty, Camp 4 (as PDC)
- c. PDC Alan L. Russ, Camp 16 (as PDC)
- d. PDC James M. Converse, Camp 5 (as PDC)
- e. PCC Robert L. Wandel, Camp 4.
- f. Wayne T. Nighbert, Camp 4.

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25. Commander Knopke stated the Department of Kansas was entitled to six delegates to the National Encampment. PDC Knopke asked for nominations from the flow for the election of delegates to the 130<sup>th</sup> National Encampment. PDC Russ nominated the following to be delegates:

- a. Richard T. Bennett, Camp Commander, Camp 1
- b. PCC Robert L. Wandel, Junior Vice Department Commander, Camp 4
- c. PCC Rocky L. Bartlow, Camp 16
- d. PCC Michael J. Hadl, Camp Commander, Camp 4
- e. PCC Lane D. Smith, Camp Commander, Camp 5
- f. Kent M. Melcher, Camp Commander, Camp 16

26. The motion for election of delegates was seconded and approved. These brothers will be so indicated on the Form 49 submitted to National Headquarters.

27. Commander Knopke recognized PDC Russ, who moved, "All Members and Associates of the Department of Kansas who are in good standing as of this date and are not otherwise entitled to membership at the 130<sup>th</sup> National Encampment nor elected as a "Delegate" to the 130<sup>th</sup> National Encampment shall be elected as "ALTERNATE DELEGATES" to the 130<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, August 12-13, 2011, in Renton, Virginia. A listing of those so elected as Alternate Delegates shall be included in the official proceedings of this encampment and shall be attached to the Department of Kansas Certificate of Election and Installation of Department Officers (SUVCW Form 49) and forwarded to the National Headquarters." Motion was seconded and passed.

28. Commander Knopke announced that, per the Department Bylaws, the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas would be on April 28, 2012. He recognized Camp 16 Commander Kent M. Melcher, who moved the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment be held in Topeka. Motion was seconded and passed.

29. Commander Knopke directed Commander Melcher, Camp 16, to submit a report to the Fall Council Meeting on October 15, 2011, as to further details regarding the encampment plans.

30. PDC Russ requested Commander Knopke pass the gavel to SVDC Lafferty for a motion. After Commander Knopke passed the gavel, PDC Russ requested the Encampment approve the award of Emeritus status to Commander Knopke, upon his leaving office. This motion was seconded and approved by the Encampment.

31. SVDC Lafferty returned the gavel to Commander Knopke, who continued with new business.

32. PDC Russ gave a brief presentation about the SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature Events, followed by moving, "the Department of Kansas actively encourage the Department and its camps to identify potential candidates for signature events and actively participate in them." Motion was seconded and passed.

33. PDC Russ moved that, "The Department of Kansas spend \$40.00 to place a department advertisement in the 2011 National Encampment book. Said advertisement will be in the general format of past years." Motion was seconded and approved.

34. PDC Russ moved, "The Department of Kansas pursue acquiring an official department badge." The motion was seconded. This was followed by discussion concerning the badge and a proposed method of providing funding for it. The motion passed.

35. There being no more new business to come before the Encampment, Commander Knopke proceeded with the nominations and election of officers.

36. At this time, Commander Knopke asked the Nominating Committee to present their report. PDC Alan L. Russ presented the report. [Page C-3]

37. Commander Knopke then placed the recommendations of the Nominating Committee into nomination for their respective positions, and officially discharged the Nominating Committee with a "Thank you" from the Department.

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Department Commander	PDC Roy A. Lafferty, Camp 4
Senior Vice Department Commander	PCC Robert L. Wandel, Camp 4
Junior Vice Department Commander	PCC Rocky L. Bartlow, Camp 16
Secretary/Treasurer (term expiring 2014)	PDC Alan L. Russ, Camp 16
Council Member (term expiring 2012)	PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, Camp 1

38. Commander Knopke then opened the floor to other nominations. None were submitted.
39. The Department Secretary read the names of those nominated for office. Those brothers were then submitted as candidates for the offices indicated:
40. PDC Russ moved the nominees be elected by acclamation of the Encampment. Motion was seconded and carried.
41. Commander Knopke requested a motion from the floor to recognize Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 for all of its efforts in hosting the Encampment. PCC Rocky Bartlow moved for the request. The motion was seconded and carried.
42. Commander Knopke requested a motion from the floor to recognize and thank American Legion Dorsey-Liberty Post No. 14 for providing the meeting facilities. PCC Rocky Bartlow moved for the request. The motion was seconded and carried.
43. Commander Knopke recognized Secretary Russ, who moved, "The proceedings of this encampment, upon approval by the voting members of the Department Council, shall be accepted as the official proceedings of the encampment, be distributed to the camps of the Department, and be posted on the Department website at that time." Motion was seconded and passed.
44. At this time, Commander Knopke presented the following awards to the indicated recipients:

**Captain Patrick H. Coney Award for Member of the Year**  
PCC Robert L. Wandel, Camp 4, Lawrence

**William W. Nixon Award for Camp of the Year**  
Old Abe Camp No. 16, Topeka

45. Commander Knopke turned over the gavel to National Commander-in-Chief D. Brad Schall for the installation of officers. CinC Schall thanked Commander Knopke for his service on behalf of the Department of Kansas.
46. Incoming commander, PDC Roy A. Lafferty, was asked to provide a list of appointed officers to the secretary. The secretary read those elected and appointed, to wit:

Department Commander	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
Senior Vice Department Commander	Robert L. Wandel, PCC, Camp 4
Junior Vice Department Commander	Rocky L. Bartlow, PCC, Camp 16
Secretary/Treasurer (term expiring 2014)	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16
Council Member (term expiring 2013)	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1
Chaplain	Mark A. Britton, PCC, Camp 1
Patriotic Instructor	William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, Camp 5
Graves Registration Officer	Robert L. Wandel, PCC, Camp 4
Civil War Memorials Officer	Douglas E. McGovern, PCC, Camp 1
Historian	Blair D. Tarr, Camp 16
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Brian R. Van Schmus, PCC, Camp 4
Counselor	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16

47. CinC Schall proceeded to install the new Department Officers, after which the new officers were instructed to assume their respective stations.



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48. Commander Lafferty was given the charge for his office. The badge of office as Department Commander, gavel, Rituals of the Order, National Constitution and Regulations of the Order, and Department Bylaws were presented to incoming Department Commander Lafferty by CinC Schall.

49. The Department flag was transferred from outgoing Commander Knopke to incoming Commander Lafferty.

50. Commander Lafferty presented PDC James R. Knopke with a certificate of recognition for his service as the Thirteenth Department of Kansas Commander and presented him with the miniature Past Department Commander badge, as he had previously received the full-sized badge.

51. Commander Lafferty then proceeded to close the Encampment, as per the Ritual of the Order. The Encampment was declared closed at 3:05 PM.

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### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A	Officer Reports
Attachment B	Camp Reports
Attachment C	Committee Reports
Attachment D	Amendments to Bylaws
Attachment E	Encampment Attendees

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

These proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Encampment for the Department of Kansas are certified to be complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge and ability.

SUBMITTED IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

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Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

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Roy A. Lafferty, PDC  
Commander

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James R. Knopke, PDC  
Immediate Past Commander

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Robert L. Wandel, PCC  
Senior Vice Commander

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Rocky L. Bartlow, PCC  
Junior Vice Commander

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Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC  
Council Member

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Randal L. Durbin, PDC  
Council Member

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Blair D. Tarr  
Council Member

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

## OFFICER REPORTS

### ADDRESS BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF D. BRAD SCHALL TO THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS ENCAMPMENT D. Brad Schall, PDC

It's good to be home. Commander-in-Chief job is one of choices. It is recognition that you will have a very short period of time to make a difference. You can make of it what you want it to be.

We sent a simple direction for the Order: LLPH.

I'm seventy-one years old, born on this wonderful prairie in Reno County. I visited yesterday with a cousin here in Lawrence, and we relived our wonderful childhood and recounted growing up in Hutchinson. I have always said that Kansas was unique in the fact that it was a place and a state of mind. Most places are one or the other.

I would like to thank my Brothers and Sisters from Kansas that have supported our Order and who have dedicated so much time in Honoring the Boys in Blue.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding job that Alan Russ has done on the Council of Administration and my Chief of Staff. He has been the perfect Chief of Staff, and I couldn't have done my job without his help and support.

This is an exciting year for our Order. We start the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. The Sesquicentennial Committee has developed a program for you to participate in. I hope each Department and Camp will participate with a signature event. Become active with your local and state Sesquicentennial Committees. You can find information on our National website at - [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org).

Does anyone know what the heading says on the National Website?

"Preserving the Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and our Ancestors who fought to preserve the Union 1861-1865" "(The largest GAR and SUVCW resource on the web with over 1,700 pages of information)"

There are 13 categories, 133 lines or topic items and over 1,700 pages of information.

Our website does an outstanding job in promoting the Order. In the last five years the Order has increased the number of hits by over 13 million from 4,068,746 in 2006 to 17,085,531 in 2010. Thank you to National Webmaster Freshley for the job you do.

While I'm talking about the website. -- You can go into the Commander-in-Chief's forum. -- Straight Line.

Our Patriotic Instructor program has gone from so-so to one of the very best under the direction of Brother Don Martin. This should be a regular part of each meeting that we have. I read about forty Camp and Department newsletters a month and I can see the increase in Patriotic Instructor activity.

Our Graves Registration Program continues to be refined and each year we have a significant increase in Camp, Department and general public participation. I suspect that is one of the reasons that we are having so many hits on our website. Brothers Frail and Freshley and their committees are working hard on program enhancements that will make the program better. This activity has always been a prime goal of our Order.

Our Memorial Program is being reviewed and ways are being sought to improve the reporting and funding by the Memorials Committee and the Memorials Grant Committee. There has been an increase in activity and interest this year. We are charged with maintaining these Memorials.

Jerry Sayre from California is fond of saying, "Recruit, Recruit and Recruit." The future of our Order depends on a growing membership. The more Brothers we have to Honor the Boys in Blue the better off we are.

Awards and certificates that are available -- Let me talk about them in general.

The Commander-in-Chief has a GAR certificate that can be given to anyone that supports our mission, from Brothers and Sisters in the Order, to local politicians, cemeteries, civil organizations, NPS. Let the Commander-in-Chief know who you would like one made out to and he will send it to you. There is a certificate of appreciation to Brothers and Sisters of the Order. Then there is the Meritorious Service award, this is awarded to someone that has done something special or unique and someone has recommended them to the Commander-in-Chief or the Commander-in-Chief recognizes these efforts. All these awards are given out by the Commander-in-Chief. The Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star is given with the approval of the CofA.

Last but certainly not the least is our responsibility to report our activities in a timely and efficient manner. Several changes have occurred on IRS regulations, several changes in our forms and each must be forwarded to the proper person or identity. Your Department Secretary is addressing those issues at this encampment.

Thank you all for all the many things you do. You are the best.

Our theme for the year is:

"Learn who we are -- Learn what we do -- Participate in what we do -- Honor the Boys in Blue"

Please come to the National Encampment in August. Think about California in 2012 and Wisconsin in 2013. We need your input and participation in managing our Order. Besides that, Encampments are fun.

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## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT

**James R. Knopke, PDC**

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. It has been a memorable one with the high point being the Department hosting its first National Encampment. The Commander is only as good as the people that serve under him, and to that I thank the elected officers, my appointed officers, and the Camps for your support through the year.

I represented the Department at the following events:

1. SUVCW ceremonies at the 1st tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. May 30 2010.
2. National ceremonies at the 2nd Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. May 31, 2010.
3. National Encampment in Overland Park, KS. August 11 through 15, 2010.
4. Fall Council Meeting in Emporia, KS. October 16, 2010.
5. Franklin Camp #5 Veterans Day Ceremony, Olathe, KS. November 6, 2010.
6. Franklin Camp #5 installation of officers, Olathe, KS. November 18, 2010.
7. SUVCW Remembrance Day ceremony in Gettysburg, PA. November 20, 2010.
8. Old Abe Camp #16 installation of officers, Topeka, KS December 2, 2010.
9. Department winter training session, Emporia, KS January 8, 2011.
10. Lincoln Celebration, Washington, DC February 12,, 2011.
11. SUVCW Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, IL April 16, 2011.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

James R. Knopke, PDC  
Department Commander

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## SENIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT AND "FACEBOOK" REPORT

**Roy A. Lafferty, PDC**

As Senior Vice Commander I represented the Department at the National Encampment which I will report on later.

I also attended the fall council meeting where I proposed that department develop a Facebook page which was approved and will report on later.

I also attended the Department Training session and the spring council meeting

This past fall the Department created a Facebook page for communicating to the brothers and recruitment. As of Tuesday, April 26, 2011, we have:

- 39 Fans
- 56 Active Users (Fans and Nonfans)
- 1,217 views of posts
- The demographics are broken down as follows:
  - 85% Male
  - 65% were 45 or older

Our Fans are not only from the state of Kansas and the Country but we have Fans in Canada and Italy.

It is hoped that the page will continue to grow and be used by all in the Department. Camps are encouraged to post meetings and events for all to see.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Roy A. Lafferty, PDC  
Senior Vice Department Commander

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## JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER REPORT

**Robert L. Wandel, PCC**

Commander submitting four new members applications. Three of these members were placed in the Olathe Franklin Camp #5 and one was placed in the Wichita Patrick Coyne Camp # 1.

At our spring training meeting the topic of "How do we recruit new members" was discussed. All camps were encouraged to try to get the members to help in the effort to recruit. The job is tough but if the SUVCW is to succeed in Kansas we will all have to try to join in the effort to recruit new members.

As Department Graves Registration Officer, the camps have been encouraged to add names to the National Graves Registration Databank.

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Due to the cost of gasoline my trips as well as others researching cemeteries has decreased. Thus graves registration has fallen from that of previous years. I would suggest that if there are any cemeteries near to where any members live, they should check the database and see if it has been recorded or not. If it has not please add the information or send it to me and I will record it into the National database.

I have taken on the work of recording GAR members for Posts in Douglas County. I have made several trips to the Kansas State Historical Society and searched the old GAR records. In doing so I came across an individual who has accumulated the records for Jackson County and he was kind enough to burn a copy for the SUVCW. Submitted with Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Robert L. Wandel, PCC  
Junior Vice Department Commander

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## SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

**Alan L. Russ, PDC**

The proceedings of the 14th Annual Department Encampment, April 24, 2010, were properly published and approved by the full Department Council. Electronic copies were furnished to each Department Officer and Camp Secretary. They are also available at the Department website [www.suvcwks.org](http://www.suvcwks.org).

The Department strength as of March 31, 2010 was as follows:

Hereditary Members:	120 (including 6 Life Members)
Associates:	7
Junior:	6
Junior Associates:	0
Dual	2
Total:	133 (with 127 being reportable strength to National)

The Department strength as of March 31, 2011 is:

Hereditary Members:	110 (including 7 Life Members)
Associates:	5
Juniors:	5
Junior Associates:	0
Dual	2
Total:	120 (with 115 reportable to National)

The above numbers represent a net loss of twelve reportable brothers for the Department. The previous year had a net loss of fifteen. This is not a good trend, and, if it continues, the Department of Kansas will soon have the unpleasant distinction of being a “double-digit” department, again.

As Department Secretary I attended the Department at the 2010 Fall Council Meeting, 2011 Winter Training Session and 2011 Spring Council meeting. I also attended the National Encampment at Overland Park, Kansas, in August 2010, the Gettysburg Remembrance Day and National Council of Administration meeting at Gettysburg in November 2010, and the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony and National Council of Administration meeting in Springfield, Illinois, in April 2011.

It continues to be my honor to serve the Department in this capacity this past year, and I look forward to serving another three year term of office.  
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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## TREASURER REPORT – DEPARTMENT GENERAL FUND

In connection with my move to Saint Francis, Kansas, I also opened a new checking account for the Department at the First National Bank in Saint Francis. This was obviously done for my convenience. Yesterday, on my way to Lawrence, I stopped in Topeka and closed out both the Department of Kansas general account and the remaining Department of Kansas 2010 National Encampment account in order to transfer the remaining funds to the account in Saint Francis.

Each month, I email the members of the Department Council all of the monthly bank statements, along with the spreadsheet for the accounts, in order that they are able to perform their duties in reviewing the funds. This keeps it easier than doing it quarterly.

I also converted the spreadsheets from an “encampment to encampment” reporting period to the correct fiscal year reporting period. Our fiscal year is the calendar year. As such, the following report is from January 1, 2011, through yesterday.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

Balance on hand January 1, 2010	\$ 2,403.87
Balance on hand January 1, 2011	\$ 9,469.89
Income January 1, 2011 to April 29, 2011:	
National Application Fees	15.00
National Per Capita	2,507.00
National Quartermaster	0.00
Department – General	
Transfer from encampment fund for SUVCW	
Foundation donation	2,000.00
Liberty Bond obligation	310.00
Donated Liberty Bonds	<u>450.00</u>
Total Department – General	2,760.00
Department – Special	<u>0.00</u>
Total Department Income	5,744.50
Expenses January 1, 2011, to April 29, 2011	
National Application Fees	15.00
National Per Capita	
National Organization	2,484.00
Refund to Sgt Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 (Longacre)	<u>23.00</u>
Total National Per Capita	2,507.00
National Quartermaster	44.75
Department – General	
Donation to SUVCW Foundation for Lincoln Fellow	
Awards	2,000.00
Emporia Senior Center	100.00
Encampment Ribbons	53.50
Department Website	35.00
CinC Lunch Cost	<u>10.00</u>
Total Department – General	2,198.50
Department – Special	0.00
Total Department Expenses	<u>4,765.25</u>
Ending Balance April 29, 2011:	<u>\$ 10,449.14</u>
Obligated Funds:	
National Application Fees	0.00
National Per Capita	0.00
CinC Lodging	340.00
Take-Me-Global (website)	35.00
Total Obligated Funds	<u>\$ 375.00</u>
Available Funds as of April 29 2011	<u>\$ 10,074.14</u>

### TREASURER REPORT – 2010 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2011	\$ 2,310.00
Receipts January 1, 2011 to April 29, 2011:	<u>0.00</u>
Expenditures April January 1, 2011 to April 29, 2011:	
General Fund (transfer to Dept General Fund for	
Lincoln Fellow donation	<u>2,000.00</u>
Balance on Hand as of April 29, 2011	<u>\$ 310.00</u>
Liberty Bonds	<u>\$ 310.00</u>
Net Funds as of April 29, 2011	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

### SUMMARY OF 2010 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT FINANCES

	Receipts	Expenses	Net
Banquet	8904.00	10,234.09	(\$1,330.09)
Campfire	500.00	520.00	( 20.00)
Joint Memorial Service	0.00	0.00	0.00
Commemorative Medals	5,900.00	2,272.77	3,627.23

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT**

Vendor/Display Tables	340.00	461.76	( 121.76)
Audio-Visual Support	0.00	417.64	( 417.64)
Encampment Booklet	2,625.00	1,079.05	1,545.95
WWI Museum Tour	1,360.00	1,265.00	95.00
<u>General</u>	<u>4,265.67</u>	<u>4,424.83</u>	<u>( 159.16)</u>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$23,894.67</u></b>	<b><u>\$20,675.14</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,219.53</u></b>

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Treasurer

**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR REPORT**  
**S. Todd Meek, PCC**

I am very happy to report all of the camps in the Department of Kansas have shown great patriotism throughout the year. All of the camps provide patriotic instruction at their camp meetings and in their communities. The camps attend parades, rededication ceremonies, and provide color guards several times throughout the year. Every camp attends Memorial day ceremonies and in some camps they attend up to five different ceremonies during the weekend. There are many reenactors in our camps that provide school programs and attend events, providing great history lessons for children and adults. Overall the camps in the Department of Kansas are learning and teaching the history of the men of the Grand Army of the Republic.

I attended the National Encampment, that the Department of Kansas had the honor to host in Overland Park, KS this past year. The Department provided a Color Guard for the encampment and was received very well by all that attended. I also was able to meet and speak with National Patriotic Instructor Brother Don Martin. I would like to say thank you to him for his time and knowledge. I enjoyed the National Encampment very much and would recommend to anyone that did not get to go, to go to at least one in the future. I would also like to thank the committee that worked so hard for so long to bring the National Encampment to Kansas. I thought the Department of Kansas represent the state very well.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Todd Meek, PCC  
Patriotic Instructor

**GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER**  
**Robert L. Wandel**

*[See Junior Vice Department Commander Report]*

**HISTORIAN REPORT**  
**(Last Soldier Project, GAR Records Project)**  
**Blair D. Tarr**

As in previous years, I have combined three reports for the sake of convenience, since they do overlap somewhat. I am also indicating some matters that exist in my position of museum curator for the State Historical Society, as they may be of some interest to the order.

In regards to the job that pays the bills, the State historical Society has set tentative plans for a sesquicentennial exhibit on the Civil War. While the exact nature of the exhibit is still to be set, the tentative dates are August 15, 2013 until a yet undetermined date in late 2014. You may assume that late 2014 date will be after October 19-25, as the exhibit will be up for two of the larger events in Kansas during the Civil War, Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence and the Price Raid battles including Westport and Mine Creek.

To this end, collections staff at the museum is working at researching and cataloging the Civil War collections. This is to get a better handle on what we have. You may know when the G.A.R. was still active and had its headquarters in the Memorial Building in Topeka, they had their own museum. They made arrangements for that collection to eventually be absorbed by the Historical Society. I hate to say it, but whatever our ancestors were as soldiers in saving the Union, they were not so good at keeping records of artifacts—at least as far as anybody's been able to tell. That collection lacks information, which means that many things may make excellent collectors' pieces, but rather limited in telling stories of the historical past.

I do find myself giving mini-Civil War lessons to my colleagues, which may not be the worst situation to be in.

One item that may happen in the nearer future is a restoration of a G.A.R. exhibit in the lobby of the G.A.R. Memorial Building in Topeka.

I will also add that the flag preservation project continues to be slow going. We do still receive funds from people but it is not enough to get any flags done. My concern is that whatever flags are not treated by the end of the Sesquicentennial, may not be done for many years to come.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

As Department Historian I have, as usually occasionally received inquiries which I have tried to process promptly and come up with sufficient answers, or at least pass on to someone who may have the answers

It is with the Last Soldier project and the G.A.R. Records project that I have tried to get to a point where we can get the most out of them. With the Last Soldier Project, we are still essentially where we were last year—about 13 counties short of having a Last soldier in each of the 105 counties. It is a matter of getting the material organized into something usable.

The same holds true with searching for G.A.R. records. We are probably lucky that much is in the hands of the Historical Society Archives in Topeka, but it's finding those things that are still scattered around the state.

With both of these projects, it is my wish that I can put these in some basic order so that I can ask the Department for advice on how to proceed with them. And by that I am suggesting that I may ask of you assistance in tracking down some loose ends.

Submitted in F.C. & L,

Blair D. Tarr  
Department Historian  
Chair, Last Soldier and GAR Records Projects

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### EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR

**Brian Van Schmus, PCC**

It has been my ongoing duty and honor to serve as Eagle Scout Coordinator for the Department of Kansas, SUVCW. While the numbers are not as high as in years past, this is still a vital part of our mission to continue the recognition of those who served for our country. I continue to promote this program through Boy Scout leadership meetings. Listed below are the certificates issued for the 2010-2011 year.

David Allen Unruh Knifley – Wichita, KS  
Christian Snouffer – Winfield, KS  
Jordan Lucius Boyce – Leavenworth, KS  
Benjamin Patrick Schatzel – Leavenworth, KS  
Joshua Gerald Benard – Leavenworth, KS  
Peter James Gardner– Leavenworth, KS  
Douglas G. Smith – Wellington, KS  
Benjamin A. Raya – Overland Park, KS  
Ryan Schulteis – Lawrence, KS  
Quenton Ray Rucker – Hoxie, KS  
James Brandon Milam - Lee's Summit, MO

David M. Van Dyne – Stilwell, KS  
Brent Allen Gersema – Leavenworth, KS  
Joshua Alexander Camarena – Leavenworth, KS  
Stuart Aaron McDaniel – Leavenworth, KS  
Kevin John Burke II– Leavenworth, KS  
Alexander William Marsh – Haysville, KS  
Gunnar Ian Naughton – Manhattan, KS  
Eric Long – Lawrence, KS  
John Hambleton – Lawrence, KS  
Seth Thomas Kincaid - Lansing, KS  
Maximillian S. Kelderhouse–Overland Park, KS

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Brian Van Schmus, PCC  
Eagle Scout Coordinator

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### CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS OFFICER

**Douglas E. McGovern, PCC**

The Memorials/Monuments Catalog is essentially finished. All updates and known or suspected sites have been visited and recorded with only a very few exceptions. At present, the listing for Kansas includes

- 196 primary memorials
- 1 primary memorial requiring photos
- 195 secondary memorials
- 6 memorials (unknown) requiring history research
- 2 counties (Logan and Scott) with no memorials found
- 11 gone but not forgotten

A search like this is never complete but, at present, other than researching some of the unknowns, there is little left to do. I encourage all members to keep looking however. There are undoubtedly some monuments or memorials remaining to be found.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Doug McGovern  
Civil War Memorials Officer

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

## CHAPLAIN'S NECROLOGY REPORT

**Mark A. Britton, PCC**

### NECROLOGY REPORT

The loss of three brothers within the Department was reported during the last year.

**Ervin W. Work**, November 24, 1929 – August 10, 2010, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp No. 1, Wichita, Kansas

**Delton M. Gilliland**, Past Camp Commander, June 21, 1940– September 29, 2010, Old Abe Camp No. 16, Topeka, Kansas

**Michael W. Anderson**, Past Camp Commander, January 30, 1955 – December 10, 2010, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp No. 4, Lawrence, Kansas

Let us observe a moment of silence in memory of our fallen brothers.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Mark A. Britton, PCC

Chaplain

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

## CAMP REPORTS

### CORPORAL PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, WICHITA

**Robert T. Bennett**

In 2009 the camp took on a project at Wichita's Highland Cemetery – WRC/GAR section. They scheduled Saturday workdays during summer of 2009 and completed the project in the Spring of 2010. They raised and straightened 13 stones and cleaned all the stones in the area. At the spring 2010 work day they cleaned and trimmed the area around the memorial cannon and benches. They also repainted the cannon and benches. They held their Memorial Day meeting ceremony there in May 2010.

They have continued their "Adopt an Overseas Soldier Program" with a 2 boxes of wanted items going overseas to soldiers that are indentified thru some connection to camp members. The camp received a listed of needed items by a personal contact with a member of the unit. Members purchased items from this list and brought them to a camp meeting for shipment overseas. These items are very much appreciated by the men and women serving our country so far from home.

The camp sent a number of delegates to the National Encampment in Overland Park in August 2010 as well as providing the members for the Dept. Color Guard.

Brother Richard Bennett was elected Camp Commander in Oct 2010 replacing Brother Todd Meek who completed (2) terms as Camp Commander.

The camp is focusing on trying to recruit new members this year. Brother Meek has put together a recruiting box with the necessary display info and items for any member to set up at almost any event that be used for a recruiting opportunity. Camp Commander Richard Bennett set up a recruiting booth at "Civil War Days" at Cowtown in Wichita, KS on Saturday, April 16. As a result we have a handful of potential new members.

The camp continues to meet on its regularly scheduled night following the ritual with a short civil war related program as part of the evening schedule.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Robert T. Bennett  
Camp Commander

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### SERGEANT SAMUL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4, LAWRENCE

**Commander Michael J. Hadl, PCC**

April 15, 2010 meeting was held at Watkins Museum. Marty Speer spoke about his ancestor John Speer who lived in Lawrence when Quantril's raid happened. He lost two sons during the raid. April 24, 2010 the State encampment was held in Wichita, Kansas. Several camp members attended.

May 20, 2010 meeting was held at Watkins Museum. Ken Leonard spoke about the Battle of Westport. May 20, 2010 ( a Saturday) the camp along with area boy scouts and parents put out the Memorial Day flags at three Lawrence cemeteries on civil war era veterans graves.

June 3, 2010 Bob Wandel and ( I ) Mike parked cars and had a recruitment table set up next to the other side, at the Black Jack Battlefield site near Baldwin City, Kansas. Brian Van Schmus viewed the festivities.

June 17, 2010 meeting was held at Watkins museum. Martha Parker spoke about the Wakarusa Valley Historical area during the war.

July 15, 2010 meeting was held at Pepper Jax. several members attended, no official business done.

August 17, 2010 meeting was held at Watkins Museum. Grady Atwater spoke about the Adair Cabin in Osawatomie, Kansas. John Brown stayed there with his sister and brother-in-law.

August 12-15 2010 the National Encampment was held in Overland Park, Kansas. Several camp members attended. One lucky camp 4 member won a flag quilt raffled off by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

September 16, 2010 meeting was held at Watkins Museum. Peter Zachariah spoke about his 1860's house and bottles found there. The house was built before Quantril's raid.

October 2010 meeting was held at Watkins Museum. Over ninety boy scouts and their parents showed up to view civil era guns brought by Pat Jardon. Several camp members brought civil war era clothing and items.

November 2010 several camp members walked in the Ottawa, Kansas veterans parade.

The November 17th, 2010 was held at Watkins Museum was moved to Wednesday. Camp officers were nominated and elected.

December 16, 2010 was held at Watkins Museum. 2011 officers were installed.

The January meeting was canceled because of the weather.

February 17, 2011 meeting was held at Watkins, Andre` Bollaert spoke about the Castle Tea Room, which was built by civil war veteran Col. John Roberts.

March 18, 2011 was held at Watkins Museum. Danny McMillen brought and spoke about his original civil war poster, welcoming home the 12th Kansas from the war.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

April 21, 2011 was held in the upper level of Watkins Museum. Professor Jennifer Weber of KU spoke about Lincoln and executive power during the civil war.  
Submitted with Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Michael J. Hadl, PCC  
Camp Commander

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### **FRANKLIN CAMP 5, OLATHE** **Commander Lane D. Smith, PCC**

The membership drive recently concluded with 20 members and 2 associate members. These are the same numbers we started the 2010 year.

This past year the camp participated in 3 parades, the Shawnee Parade in June, the Olathe Old Settlers Parade in Sept and the Veterans Day parade in Leavenworth on Veterans Day in Nov. The past 3 years the Veterans Day parade chairman has asked our camp to participate in a joint Color Guard with the local SCV camp and the reception has been very good. We expect to participate in these three parades again this year.

In Nov our camp provided in an artifacts display at the Gardner Historical Museum for their 6 week Military History display. Sr V Commander Dave Tolefson has a very nice display of artifacts for that event. From that event we expect to enroll a new member. On July 9th Dave will also display his artifacts at the Battle of Wesport Museum for their annual event.

Our camp continues to have both a Memorial Day service and a Veterans Day service at the GAR Monument in the Olathe Cemetery. This past Veterans Day we honored a WWII veteran of the Gardner American Legion. This coming Memorial Day we will honor approximately 14 WWII veterans of the VFW Post 846 of Overland Park. We always like to include participation by the ROTC cadets of two of the local high schools as the color guard, also participation by a local Boy Scout troop and a volley detail of the local reenactor group Elliott Scouts.

Since their initial burial back in the 20's and 30's, two Union soldiers buried at the GAR monument circle never had markers. We just recently secured those markers, one of them being a soldier of the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry. It is expected at this time to have a Memorial Service for both these markers sometime in early Fall. Preliminary preparations for that service have begun.

This spring we awarded the SUVCW medal to a ROTC cadet at the awards banquets for the Washington High School AFJROTC, The Leavenworth high school AJROTC, the Shawnee Mission North NJROTC and the SMWNJROTC.

We continue to hold our meetings on the 4th Thurs each month, except for July, Aug and Dec, at Bass Pro Shop restaurant in Olathe. With each meeting we have Patriotic Instruction and generally it is with a member of the camp. For example, in Feb camp Sr V Dave Tollefson gave a presentation on the Massacre at Centralia, March Roger Millers subject was Civil War Medicine, April Verle Olsen was Ol Gl Jubal Early and in May Commander Smith will give a program of a CWRT tour of the Battle of Carthage.

Each month our camp newsletter, The Old Flag, is published by camp member and former Dept Commander Jim Converse.

Lane Smith  
Camp Commander

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### **OLD ABE CAMP NO. 16, TOPEKA** **Commander Kent M. Melcher**

For the past two years, Old Abe Camp's primary focus has been on Patriotic Instruction and programs. Brothers of the Camp have highlighted their ancestors' family histories, service records, and their lives after the War of the Rebellion. In addition, the Camp has enjoyed programs from outside speakers, including, notably, the pastor of the Louisburg United Methodist Church, Reverend Donna Voteau, who brought to a monthly meeting the personal flag of General U.S. Grant. Reverend Voteau indicated that the flag was hung outside the tent of General Grant when he attended GAR Encampments. Apparently, he presented it to the local GAR post. The authenticity of the flag has been documented by US Army historians at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Old Abe Camp has also continued for many years to maintain the GAR section of the historic Topeka Cemetery, and has sponsored Memorial Day services at the cemetery for several consecutive years. In addition to a short program of memorial, Boy Scouts in the area assist camp members in placing flags on the graves of Civil War veterans.

The Camp has a goal of increasing its total membership in 2011 by encouraging brothers to invite those they know who have Civil War ancestors. We have also put together a very attractive brochure, which JVC Brother Conrad Fisher has placed at the Topeka-Shawnee County Library, the Combat Air Museum, and Constitution Hall in Lecompton. We will man a booth at the Kansas 150th Armed Forces Celebration at Forbes Field on June 4 and 5,

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

2011, which includes a parade. Some of the brothers intend to march in the parade, carrying the Camp flag. We are also considering having a booth at Cider Days.

Planning for our annual Memorial Day program is underway, with Brother Earl McIntosh in charge. We hope to add to the solemnity of the day with a bugler playing taps, a drummer playing a dirge drum roll, and perhaps an honor guard doing a 21-gun salute.

The Camp has agreed to change flags monthly at the Union Pacific Great Overland Station in north Topeka. The flags need periodic maintenance, and therefore must be examined periodically for damage. The Camp will lower those flags that need maintenance and hoist a replacement flag. Flags that have been taken down for maintenance will be repaired and stored to be hoisted again in the future.

The Camp has been approached to set and dedicate two gravestones, one at the Topeka Cemetery for Daniel Armstrong, and another in the Densmore Cemetery in Norton County, Kansas, for Orrin Barden.  
Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kent M. Melcher  
Camp Commander

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

## COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL TOPIC REPORTS

### REPORT ON THE 2010 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

On August 12th – 15th of 2010, 35 brothers of the Department of Kansas attended and help host the National Encampment in Overland Park, Kansas. This was the first National Encampment in the state of Kansas as well as the largest group from Kansas to attend. Those in attendance were:

**Dept Commander:** ..... James R. Knopke, PDC (Camp 5)  
**Past Dept Commanders:** Alan L. Russ, PDC (Camp 16)                      Kenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC (Camp 1)  
   Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC (Camp 1)                      Randal L. Durbin, PDC (Camp 16)  
   Roy A. Lafferty, PDC (Camp 4)                      James M. Converse, PDC (Camp 5)  
**Delegates:** ..... Rocky L. Bartlow (Camp 16)                      Shawn W. Bell (Camp 1)  
   S. Todd Meek, PCC (Camp 1)                      Blair D. Tarr (Camp 16)  
   Brian R. Van Schmus, PCC (Camp 4)                      Robert L. Wandel (Camp 4)  
**Alternate Delegates:** ..... Richard T. Bennett (Camp 1)                      Mark A. Britton (Camp 1)  
   Mark L. Brown (Camp 1)                      Jonathan F. Birket (Camp 1)  
   Conrad Fisher (Camp 16)                      D. Darrel Gilliland (Camp 16)  
   Ronald Greek (Camp 5)                      Michael J. Hadl, PCC (Camp 4)  
   Terry L. Iseli (Camp 1)                      Paul A. Jefferson (Camp 4)  
   Earl T. McIntosh (Camp 16)                      Kent M. Melcher (Camp 16)  
   Wayne T. Nighbert (Camp 4)                      Verle L. Olson (Camp 5)  
   Dale L. Rouse, PCC (Camp 1)                      James A. Scheidel, Jr., PCC (Camp 1)  
   Lane D. Smith, PCC (Camp 5)                      William D. Stilley (Camp 5)  
   Matthew G. Toll, PCC (Camp 5)                      Alan L. Van Loenen, PCC (Camp 4)  
   Robert D. Wandel (Camp 4)

**Other Attendees:**..... Daniel W. Stilley (Camp 5)-Junior Member

It was communicated to the brothers that costs had gone up and returns on investments had been low. Cost savings methods were discussed and the Brothers voted to raise dues and encampment fees. I would personally like to express my thanks to all those that pitched in to help make this encampment one of the smoothest encampments I have attended.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Roy Lafferty  
Senior Vice Commander

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### 2011 CENTRAL REGION ASSOCIATION REPORT

First, there is no report on the 2010 Central Region Association Conference because it was not attended by any brothers of this department.

The 2011 conference is scheduled for October 1, 2011, in Rockville, Indiana, and will consist of a morning tour of the area's wooden covered bridges. The meeting will take place beginning at 1 PM and should last until approximately 5 PM. The anticipated program in the afternoon will involve the National Webmaster, Ken Freshley, talking about websites. There will be a banquet on Saturday evening for those wishing to attend.

To my knowledge, no one from the Department of Kansas is planning to attend this conference.

We have had only limited participation in the CRA with only minimal attendance. Frequently, that attendance from this department was only myself or myself and one other brother. We hosted the 2005 CRC in Lawrence, Kansas, with a lower than expected attendance attributed to the distance Kansas is from other departments. Since the first weekend of October is usually a NASCAR race event at the Kansas Speedway, it is extremely difficult to find reasonably priced lodging to host another CRC in the Eastern portion of Kansas. Attendees at the 2010 CRC expressed no desire to attend an event in Kansas which was much past Lawrence. It should therefore be understood that Kansas does not plan to host another conference.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is my recommendation to this body that the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, notify the Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (CRA) that the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, officially withdraws from membership to the CRA.  
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Department Secretary

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

## 2010 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

**PDC James R. Knopke, Chairman**

Let it be known to all that the 2010 National Encampment hosted by the Department of Kansas was a success. I would say a huge success, but then that's just me. It was a long five year process and we need to recognize a lot of people. First, the Encampment Committee of Alan Russ, Tom Schmidt, Roy Lafferty, and myself for being willing to serve from the beginning to the end. We believe this was a key factor in the Department success. We were very fortunate to have extremely good talent in Kansas to provide the entertainment at the Camp Fire and the banquet. The Lecompton Players did their period piece on Bleeding Kansas at the Camp Fire and Jon and Betsy Goering played at the banquet. Both of these events were very well received by all. Our guests seemed to appreciate that we wanted to focus on what was happening 150 years ago. Along that line, we had Department members and friends dress in period costume to welcome those attending the Encampment on Thursday. There was even a rumor that General Grant was there. An added touch was the Department of Kansas Guard that acted as the color bearers for all ceremonies, including full field gear for the opening of that camp fire. They really did us proud.

There are a couple of things you should know that really saved us a lot of money. One, Tom Schmidt and Jon Goering were the ones the designed the Encampment badge, the commemorative medals and some of the art that we used. Two, Alan Russ for doing all the design work and printing for all of the handouts that were used at the Memorial Service, Campfire, and Banquet, along with a lot of work to make sure that the Encampment Book looked presentable, which it was. Three, your Encampment Committee spent a Sunday in Wichita printing and assembling the Encampment book, along with the help of Barb and Jennifer Knopke, Todd Meeks, and Jon Goering. The company that Tom works for let us their printers and Tom donated the paper. This gave us greater control over the quality of the book. Four, being part of the Host committee, Barb and Jennifer Knopke also acquired the materials and made all the decorations for the tables at the banquet and for the meeting rooms.

Last, but not least, a very big thanks goes to all the Brothers of the Department who supported this Encampment, whether it be monetarily, through hard work, or both. You are the ones who really made it the success that it was.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Jim Knopke, PDC  
Chairman

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## MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD COMMITTEE REPORT

**PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, Chairman**

Department Order 3 of April 24, 2010, appointed the following brothers to the Mine Creek Battlefield Committee for the term April 24, 2010 through April 30, 2011: Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. P. Coyne Camp 1, Wichita (Chairman); Randal L. Durbin, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka; Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence; Robert L. Wandel, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence; Arnold W. Schofield, Franklin Camp 5, Olathe

The purpose of this committee is coordinate and work with the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation and the Kansas State Historical Society to explore ways to help improve the condition of the battlefield, to enhance the experience of visitors to the battlefield and to help ensure preservation of the battlefield.

The committee did not have occasion to meet and as a result there is no report. It is being determined whether this is a viable committee for the Dept. of Kansas in the future.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC  
Chairman, Mine Creek Battlefield Committee

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## DEPARTMENT COUNCIL REPORT

The Department Council has reviewed the financial records of the Department for 2010-2011 and finds them to be in order.

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC  
Council Member

Blair D. Tarr  
Council Member

Randal L. Durbin, PDC  
Council Member

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

## REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee was appointed by the Department Commander for the purpose of submitting nominations for the elected officers of the Department to the Department Encampment. The committee hereby submits to this Fifteenth Annual Department of Kansas Encampment the following names in nomination for the offices indicated.

Office	Nominee	Camp
Department Commander	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC	Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4
Senior Vice Commander	Robert L. Wandel, PCC	Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4
Junior Vice Commander	Rocky L. Bartlow, PCC	Old Abe Camp 16
Secretary/Treasurer (3 yr term)	Alan L. Russ, PDC	Old Abe Camp 16
Council Members (2 year term)	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC	Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1

The Nominations Committee herewith enters nominations of these brothers to the positions indicated.

SUBMITTED IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY;

Alan L. Russ, PDC

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Old Abe Camp 16

Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT**  
**ATTACHMENT D – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DEPARTMENT BYLAWS**

There were no proposed changes to the Department Bylaws to be considered by the Fifteenth Annual Department Encampment.

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Chairman, Bylaws Committee

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT**

**ATTACHMENT E – ENCAMPMENT ATTENDEES**

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**CORP. PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1**

**Wichita**

**Camp Strength as of March 31, 2011:            Members: 50            Associates: 2            Total: 52**

Richard T. Bennett (CC)                            Mark A. Britton (PCC)                            Douglas E. McGovern (PCC)  
Kim L. Nelson (PCC)                                William F. Riedell (Del)                            Thomas E. Schmidt (PDC)  
Audie L. Strotkamp

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Department Commander                            0  
Past Department Commander                            1  
Camp Commander                                    1  
Past Camp Commander                                3  
Elected Department Officer                            0  
Delegate/Alternate Delegate                            2  
Total Present                                        7  
Total Authorized for Camp 1                            11

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**SGT. SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4**

**Lawrence**

**Camp Strength as of March 31, 2011:            Members: 21            Associates: 1            Total: 22**

Michael J. Hadl (PCC)                                Roy A. Lafferty (PDC)                                John M. McCain (Del)  
Wayne T. Nighbert (Del)                                Robert L. Wandel (PCC)

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Department Commander                            0  
Past Department Commander                            1  
Camp Commander                                    1  
Past Camp Commander                                1  
Elected Department Officer                            0  
Delegate/Alternate Delegate                            2  
Total Present                                        6  
Total Authorized for Camp 4                            5

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**FRANKLIN CAMP 5**

**Olathe**

**Camp Strength as of March 31, 2011:            Members: 19            Associates: 2            Total: 21**

James M. Converse (PDC)                                William E. Fischer, Jr. (PCC)                                James R. Knopke (PDC)  
David P. Tollefson (Del)

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Department Commander                            1  
Past Department Commander                            1  
Camp Commander                                    0  
Past Camp Commander                                0  
Elected Department Officer                            0  
Delegate/Alternate Delegate                            2  
Total Present                                        4  
Total Authorized for Camp 5                            5

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT**

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<b>OLD ABE CAMP 16</b>			
<b>Topeka</b>			
<b>Camp Strength as of March 31, 2011:</b>	<b>Members: 20</b>	<b>Associates: 0</b>	<b>Total: 20</b>
Rocky L. Bartlow (PCC)	Conrad M. Fisher (Del)	Roger D. Lester (Del)	
Kent M. Melcher (CC)	Alan L. Russ (PDC)	Blair D. Tarr (DO)	

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Department Commander		0
Past Department Commander		1
Camp Commander		1
Past Camp Commander		1
Elected Department Officer		1
<u>Delegate/Alternate Delegate</u>		<u>2</u>
Total Present		6
Total Authorized for Camp 16		7

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<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FOR ENCAMPMENT</b>			
<b>Department Strength as of March 31, 2011:</b>	<b>Members: 110</b>	<b>Associates: 5</b>	<b>Total: 115</b>

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Department Commander		1
Past Department Commander		4
Camp Commander		3
Past Camp Commander		6
Elected Department Officer		1
<u>Delegate/Alternate Delegate</u>		<u>7</u>
Total Present		22
Total Authorized for Department		28

**DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENTS**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Department Commander</b>
1	February 22-23, 1997	Wichita	Dean K. Speaks
2	April 25, 1998	Beloit	Dean K. Speaks
3	May 8, 1999	Topeka	Dean K. Speaks
4	April 15, 2000	Wichita	Franklin C. Bergquist
5	April 7, 2001	Hutchinson	Kenneth D. Strader
6	April 27, 2002	Topeka	Randall M. Thies
7	April 26, 2003	Wichita	Alan L. Russ
8	April 24, 2004	Beloit	Kenneth E. Spurgeon
9	April 23, 2005	Lawrence	Thomas E. Schmidt
10	April 22, 2006	Topeka	James R. Knopke
11	April 28, 2007	Wichita	Randal L. Durbin
12	April 26, 2008	Lawrence	Roy A. Lafferty
13	April 25, 2009	Olathe	Craig A. Sundell
14	April 24, 2010	Wichita	James M. Converse
15	April 30, 2011	Lawrence	James R. Knopke

**CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS (PDC)**

Franklin C. Bergquist (1999-2000)  
Randal L. Durbin (2006-2007)  
James R. Knopke (2005-2006) & (2010-2011)  
Roy A. Lafferty (2007-2008)  
Alan L. Russ (2002-2003)  
Thomas E. Schmidt (2004-2005)  
Kenneth E. Spurgeon (2003-2004)  
Dean K. Speaks (1996-1999)  
Craig A. Sundell (2008-2009)  
James M. Converse (2009-2010)

**CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS PAST CAMP COMMANDERS (PCC)**

Rocky L. Bartlow, Camp 16 (2010)  
Franklin C. Bergquist, Camp 1 (1998)  
Mark A. Britton, Camp 1 (2007)  
James M. Converse, Camp 5 (2006)  
James P. Coyne, Camp 1 (2008)  
Jeffrey L. Dunaway, Camp 16 (2002)  
Randal L. Durbin, Camp 16 (2004-2005)  
William E. Fischer, Jr. Camp 5 (Camp 21-Ohio)  
Michael J. Hadl, Camp 4 (2008)  
Dan E. Karr, Camp 16 (2005-2007)  
James R. Knopke, Camp 5 (Camp 16, 2003)  
Roy A. Lafferty, Camp 4 (2005)  
Douglas E. McGovern, Camp 1 (2004)  
S. Todd Meek, Camp 1 (2009-2010)  
Kim L. Nelson, Camp 1 (Camp 3, 1996-2004)  
Dale L. Rouse, Camp 1 (2006)  
Alan L. Russ, Camp 16 (2001)  
James A. Scheidel, Jr., Camp 1 (2005)  
Thomas E. Schmidt, Camp 1 (2003)  
Douglas G. Smith, Camp 1 (2000)  
Lane D. Smith, Camp 5 (2008-2009)  
Kenneth E. Spurgeon, Camp 1 (2002)  
Craig A. Sundell, Camp 4 (2004)  
Matthew G. Toll, Camp 5 (2007)  
Alan L. Van Loenen, Camp 4 (2006)

## ACTIVE CAMPS

### **Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita**

*(Named in honor of Private Patrick Coyne, Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Infantry)*

Organized June 27, 1996

### **Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence**

*(Named in honor of MOH recipient Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill, Co. G, 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Light Artillery)*

Organized December 13, 2003

### **Franklin Camp 5, Olathe**

*(Named in honor of the original G.A.R. Post located in Olathe)*

Organized October 17, 2005

### **Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka**

*(Named and numbered in honor of the original Sons of Veterans camp located in Topeka)*

Organized December 13, 1997

## INACTIVE/FORMER CAMPS

### **Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing, Jr. Camp No. 2, Johnson County**

Organized June 29, 1996, Suspended May 14, 2005

### **Joseph Gaston Camp 3, Beloit**

Organized July 6, 1996, Suspended February 1, 2007

### **Mine Creek Camp 6, Pleasanton**

Organized September 18, 2005, suspended October 17, 2009

### **Col. John A. Martin Camp No. 8, Salina/DMAL**

Organized July 11, 1996 at Salina, Suspended July 12, 1998

Designated Department MAL camp August 6, 1998, Inactivated October 1, 2005

### **Pawnee Camp No. 15, Larned**

Organized February 28, 1998, Suspended December 10, 2001

### **Pap Thomas Camp No. 52, Great Bend**

Organized February 28, 1998, Suspended May 14, 2005





Department Commander James R. Knopke receives the Gold Lincoln Fellowship Award on behalf of the Department of Kansas from Commander-in-Chief D. Brad Schall. The award honors the memory of Dean K. Speaks, PDC.



Attendees at the Fifteenth Annual Department Encampment.



**LET US NEVER FORGET.**